

From: Roger Morse
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/19/02 9:40am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

After reviewing what I know about the settlement Microsoft offered and the judge's comments on it, I do believe that while Microsoft had the right idea, it just went about it the wrong way. Since the proposed breakup of the company probably won't happen, this might be the best answer. However, ANY solution must cripple Microsoft's ability to dominate the computer industry and place restraints on its ability to wield what influence it has.

I do agree that the public school-oriented part Microsoft's settlement was underfunded and that the potential for mismanagement would be great. This is why the amount should be increased and the management should be taken over by a third party.

The most interesting part of the public school-oriented section is the donation of several PC's (with Windows software, of course) to the schools. While alternatives, such as Apple computers, were offered, the support and software were lacking, to say the least. This would actually increase Microsoft's domination of the computer market and allow them a huge chunk of the prized education market that Apple Computers still dominates.

My solution to this is that while Microsoft continues with the 'donation' to the education field, the amount should be increased and the management turned over to a third party. The other part of the solution is that the fund will be used to buy Apple computer equipment and software. This should include iMacs & PowerMac desktop computers, iBook and Powerbook notebooks and Apple's AirPort wireless network system.

Since the education market uses Apple computers heavily, this will be no great conversion to them. And since the Macintosh operating system supports using Windows disks, files, and networks, it can be integrated with schools already using some Windows machines and student with Windows computers at home can still take homework files home and use them. The only allowance for Microsoft will be to offer the Macintosh version of Microsoft Office, which will make it easier for students to take files home to use. Otherwise, there is an incredible amount of education software for the Macintosh system, so there should be no lack of software offered through the settlement. Tech support can be handled by Apple's already well-established education division. Oh, yes, and the prices for this hardware and software should be calculated at the education sales price, not the retail sales price.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,
Roger Morse

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"When I became a man, I put away childish things, including the fear of childishness and the desire to be very grown up." - C. S. Lewis